

REMARKS

The office action of September 9, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 5, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over European Publication No. 0075448 to McKee.

Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over McKee in view of the patent to Fries.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claim 5.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, both references have been discussed in prior amendments and those comments are incorporated herein by reference. The following additional comments are also provided.

In light of the Examiner's comments in the last Office Action, claim 5 has been amended to recite that the completely exposed surface is an entire face of the blade. Furthermore, claim 5 has been amended to recite that the blades of the lower pair of blades are attached to the lower blade holder so that the blades of the lower pair of blades are loosenable from the lower blade holder independently of one another.

The combination of references does not teach a construction having these features.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 5, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Fries only shows one knife pair. A combination of Fries and McKee does not teach the presently claimed invention for the reasons presented above.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and

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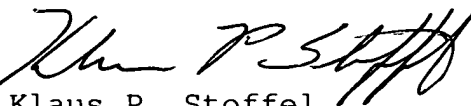
should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 10, 2008.

By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: November 10, 2008